

Vegetable Varieties Recommended by Larry Stebbins

The names and contact information of the seed companies and nurseries referenced in this list are given in a companion document. They appear in this list in abbreviated form; e.g. Territorial Seed Co. is “Territorial”.

I personally prefer to purchase mostly Open Pollinated, **(OP)**, varieties so that I can save seeds for planting future crops. Additionally, whenever I can get **OP organically grown** seeds, I almost always opt to order them.

I also indicate here in Larry’s list whether Steve Solomon, the author of *Gardening When It Counts: Growing Food in Hard Times*, considers the vegetable easy to grow, **(E)**, harder to grow, **(H)**, or difficult to grow, **(D)**. Some of the ones Steve considers “difficult” are bulbing onions, leeks, Chinese cabbage, celery, celeriac and asparagus. Around here though, I’ve heard that corn is challenging and sweet potatoes and some varieties of cow peas are difficult because they require warm nights.

Cool Season Vegetables:

Beets: **(E)** Detroit Dark Red **OP** 55-70 days Farmer Seed/Seeds of Change. Heirloom **Organic** from Horizon.
Bull’s Blood **OP** Heirloom 58 days HAS starts. For seeds, Johnny’ /Shumway’s. Territorial has **organic**.
Chioggia **OP** 65 days. Sweet. **Organic** from Heirloom Seeds.
Golden beets - Heirloom

Broccoli: Larry advises we buy them as starts.
Packman - Phelan
Premium Crop -
Early Dividend -
Belstar replaces Packman. Hybrid 66days Nichols.

Cabbages: Larry says most all of them grow well here, but he especially likes the Gonzales mini-cabbage. He says we must harden off.

Carrots: **(H)** Sugarsnax is Larry’s favorite. It won’t split like Mokum.
Danvers Half Long **OP** 65-87 days **Organic** from Cherry Gal
Mokum early, sweet hybrid 54 days Johnny’s/Territorial
Ya Ya early and sweet.
Kaleidoscope

Collard Greens: A cold weather, hardy brassica grown for winter greens. Grows well here. Sow spring or fall.
Georgia Southern **OP** 75 days Mild-tasting. **Organic** from Horizon. Mulch in winter and it will come back in spring.

English peas: **(E)** Wondo **OP** Will tolerate extremes in temperature better than all other varieties. 67 days Shumway's Maestro
Marvel

Garlic: **(H)** Deer hate the smell of garlic. Plant cloves in the fall.
Inchellium Red - Stores well for 6-9 months. **Organic** from Territorial/Potato Garden/Seeds of Change
Chesnok Red - Stores 4-6 months The PotatoGarden/Seeds of Change. **Organic** from Territorial and Seed Savers. Late variety

Kale: **(E)**
White Russian **OP organic** 50 days. Tender. Great mild flavor, especially after frost. Territorial
Red Russian **OP** 50 days Phelan has starts/Seeds of Change or Johnny's for seeds. **Organic** seeds from Seed Savers.
Redbor hybrid. 50 days. Territorial
Dinosaur/Lacinato/Tuscan/Black Kale – Heirloom.

Lettuce: **(H)**
Skyphos – Red butterhead – very early – Melts in your mouth.
Parris Island Romaine – **OP** 28+ days Phelan/**Organic** from Johnny's/Nichols (No greenhouse needed).
Buttercrunch - **OP** 48 days Heirloom. Largest and most heat resistant of the butterhead types. Very slow to bolt. Can be planted in all seasons using the trench method. Harvest as a teenager. Phelan/Territorial/Farmer/Seeds of Change/**Organic** from Johnny's and Shumway's
Little Gem – a small lettuce described as a combination of butterhead and romaine.
Jericho Romaine – **OP**
Claremont Romaine
Black-Seeded Simpson Leaf **OP** Very tolerant of hot weather. **Organic** from Seeds of Change/Johnny's/Nichols
Mesclun Blend: Plant thickly and use small.
Mild Mesclun Blend - **OP** 30 days Phelan/Territorial

Johnny's/Abundant Life
Spicy Mesclun Mix, **Organic** from Seeds of Change
Rustic arugula – Selvatica variety -

Onions: (D) In general, it's easier to grow scallions or top-setting onions in a permanent bed than bulbing onions, but there are some little-known annual varieties that are exceptions.

Candy - a day- neutral hybrid very early 85 days Best used fresh.
Will grow almost anywhere in the US. Good keeper.
Shumway's and Territorial for seeds. Plants from
Shumway's, Farmer Seed and Dixondale Farms
Red Candy Apple starts from Dixondale Farms
Superstar White starts from Dixondale Farms
First Edition
Red Zeppelin
Copra (yellow hybrid storage onion) 105-115 days Early
Stores for up to one year. Sold as plants.
Phelan/Johnny's/Territorial

Parsnips – Hollow Crown. Heirloom.

Potatoes: (E) Yukon Gold – Very early. An excellent keeper. Lends itself well to any method of potato preparation. The Potato Garden/Johnny's/Abundant Life
Red Norland The Potato Garden

Radishes: (H) Cherry Belle **OP** 22 days Spring only. Heirloom.
Territorial/Farmer
Seed/Seeds of Change/Abundant Life/Nichols
French Breakfast - Heirloom
Rat Tail
Sicilian – for stir fries
German Bier - Huge. Plant in spring and forget about it.
Chinese Green Luobo - Heirloom. Mild flavor.
Kitasawa/Baker Creek

Rutabaga: Helenor Swede OP 90 days Great keeper. Organic from Horizon.
Laurentian 100 days very sweet stores well. Reimer Seeds
and Henry Field's Heirloom.

Scallions: **(E)** Evergreen White Bunching

Snap peas: **(E)** Super Sugar Snap -
Sugar Ann Snap Peas extra early - Johnny's not OP, org
Abundant Life
Oregon Pod -

Snow peas: **(E)** Oregon Sugar Pod II **OP** 210 days, fall sown; 70 days
spring sown. Territorial/Seeds of Change/AbundantLife
Shumway's/Farmer Seed/Nichols
Oregon Giant **OP** 60-70 days **Organic** from Seeds of
Change/Territorial/Johnny's

Spinach: **(H)** Giant Noble -The largest spinach. Tender and succulent.
OP Heirloom. 56 days Shumway's
Bloomsdale Longstanding - **OP** 39-60 days Tastes great!
Farmer Seed/Shumway's/St. Clare/Nichols
Melody -
Space Hybrid - Great in summer heat!
Tyee - Everyone's favorite! Can grow it in the spring, summer
and fall. Outperforms all other varieties in trials.

Swiss Chard: **(E)**
Bright Lights **OP** 60 days Phelan
Territorial/Johnny's/Nichols
Fordhook Giant **OP** 55 days **An insurance crop.** Territorial
Golden Chard **OP Organic** 60 days Territorial

Turnips: **(H)** Purple Top White Globe **OP** Heirloom. 50-55 days Grown for
Winter harvest. **Organic** from Johnny's/Abundant Life/
Horizon

Warm Season Vegetables and fruits:

Cantaloupe: Emerald Gem **OP** 70-90 days **Organic** from Seed Savers
Eden's Gem **OP** Early Grown in Rocky Ford CO **Organic** from Seed Savers

Sweet Corn: **(D)** Ambrosia: hybrid Phelan/Farmer Seed
Bodacious: hybrid 75 days Farmer/Nichols Great for saving seed, because it doesn't need to be isolated from other corn varieties.
Golden Bantum: **OP** 75 days Territorial/Shumway's/Nichols
Golden Bantum Improved: **OP Organic** from Seed Savers
Double Red: **OP** 100 days Yellow Excellent for eating fresh or dried to make cornbread or posole.
Organic from Horizon.
Fisher's Earliest: **OP** 70 days Performs at high elevations and short growing season areas.
Organic from Horizon
Hopi Blue Sweet : **OP** 90 days Robust, drought-tolerant. Excellent fresh or dried for tortillas and cornbread. Incredible taste! **Organic** from Horizon.

Cucumber: **(E)** Boothby's Blonde – a delicious heirloom.
Sweet Success: Extra early seedless hybrid. 50 days
No greenhouse needed. Nichols
Cool Breeze: Prolific! Phelan Gardens for plants.

Green beans: **(E)** Kentucky Wonder pole beans: Heirloom
Blue Lake Bush 50 days Farmer Seed
Maxbel Bush Bean:
Dragon Tongue Bush Bean: Heirloom. Delicious! Heavy yield!
Kwintus: Early Italian pole bean. Eat fresh. Dries on the stalk. Heirloom. Kitazawa/Park Seeds.
Trinfolo Violetto: Purple Podded Pole Bean – Sweet!
Grows well in hot weather 75 days

Peppers: **(H)** Carmen – a sweet, Italian roasting pepper. Great flavor!
Mexibella, Jalapeno Moderately hot. His wife freezes them stuffed.

Jalapeno Tam Mild – Not as hot as the standard jalapenos, but just as flavorful. 70 days to maturity. Harding
Jalapeno Early Hot Phelan
Jalapeno, Chili Seeds of Change
Early Jalapeno **OP** Johnny's/Abundant Life
Fooled You Jalapeno
Lunchbox (Snacking) Pepper Mix from Johnny's
Flavorburst (Yellow) Pepper – Very sweet hybrid. Park's

Popcorn: **(D)** Snow Puff White – hybrid Needs VERY warm soil to germinate. Shumway's

Pumpkin: Small Sugar - Heirloom
Cinderella **OP** Gurney's/Nichols

Summer Squash: **(E)**
Magda (hybrid) early – rich, nutty flavor – productive 50 days
Raven Zucchini (hybrid) Johnny's
Gold Rush Zucchini (hybrid) (for drying, too) Territorial
Cocozelle Zucchini – Delicious striped zucchini! Stays tender even when large. Make squash noodles from it. Recipe at www.peaceloveandlowcarb.com
Patty Pan -

Winter Squash: **(E)** Early Butternut hybrid 85 days. Matures 15 days earlier than the Waltham Butternut. Phelan/Versey's
Buttercup **OP** 115 days. **Organic** from Cherry Gal.
Territorial/Harding/Johnny's
Spaghetti -
Table Ace Acorn - hybrid Harding/Phelan/Farmer
Table King Acorn -
Celebration Acorn – Delicious!
Hopi – pale grey squash – Baker/Rare Seeds

Tomatoes: **(E)**
Celebrity F1 Hybrid LS Phelan/Johnny's/Territorial

Goosecreek Black Heirloom –

Big Beef Hybrid Very smooth, round, crack resistant. fruit. Attractive and flavorful. Disease resistant. Produces all season. 73 days to maturity. Harding/Phelan/Johnny's

Larry's all-time favorite! A de-hybridized version now.

Juliet F1 hybrid - Sweet, red tomato in grapelike cluster. 1
3-20 fruits per cluster. Elongated, grape-like shape. 1 oz fruit.
Crack resistant. Indeterminate. Harding/Phelan/Johnny's

Sweet Million hybrid –Exceptionally sweet 1” cherry tomato.
Long clusters on indeterminate plants. Crack and disease
resistant. Harding

San Gold Cherry – Tastes like candy!

Sweet 100 cherry

Fantastic

Early Girl

Better Boy

Mortgage Lifter - **OP** Heirloom 95 days Territorial

Brandywine - Heirloom

Watermelon: Petite Yellow **OP** Early 65-80 days **Organic** from Seed Saver
Blacktail Mountain **OP** Short Season. 65-75 days Grows well
with cool nights. **Organic** from Seed Savers
Sugar Baby -

Permanent Beds:

Asparagus: Jersey Giant; Jersey Prince; Jersey Knight, (good yielders);
Waltham; Mary Washington, (old reliables with great disease
resistance); Larac, (best flavor). DW

Jersey Giant and Jersey Knight - Farmer Seed

Jersey Knight – Johnny's

Jersey Supreme – Johnny's

Strawberries: (See in the fruit section, below.)

Egyptian Walking Onions: Perennials. Fall planted, 250 days to
maturity; harvest very early in the spring. A prolific producer of green
onions with a very strong flavor. Territorial